



Dungog & Gresford Parishes

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

St Mary's Church, Brown Street, Dungog, **St Patrick's Church**, Rifle Street, Clarence Town, **St Helen's Church**, Park Street, East Gresford, **Sacred Heart Church**, Summerhill Road, Summer Hill via Vacy.

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

23 FEBRUARY 2025

Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)
Kerry Copus (*Parish Secretary*)

Presbytery & Parish Office

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Office Hours

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Other Contacts

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0403 251 434, 4996 4474, or
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Gresford Faith Banister
0427 536 248

Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
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Parish Bulletin: published each Sunday. Items for inclusion should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays. Copies of the Bulletin are available from the Parish website which is updated weekly.

Parish Website: updated regularly with copies of the bulletin and other information, and is found at www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au.

Safeguarding Promotion: For all safeguarding concerns within the parishes, please contact Fr Andrew.



World Day of Prayer 2025

You are invited to join together for the World Day of Prayer for 2025 at St Paul's Anglican Church, 21 Duke Street, Paterson, on Thursday 13 March commencing at 10.30am. All are invited, and are asked to bring lunch to share in the church hall.

This year we pray for the Cook Islands, with the theme "I made you wonderful".

Ash Wednesday—5 March

We begin our observance of Lent by celebrating Ash Wednesday on 5 March. While not a Holy Day of Obligation, for those who may wish to mark the beginning of Lent Mass will be celebrated:

8am	Clarence Town
9.30am	Dungog (alongside our school community)
5.30pm	East Gresford

Lenten Program Booklets

The booklets for this year's Lenten Program are available in the churches this weekend. You will find your book in an envelope with your name clearly marked on it.

If anyone else is still wanting a copy of the booklet, please get in touch—we have a small number of extras which are available on a 'first come, first served' basis as the Diocese of Wollongong has no more available.

The accompanying audio files are also available and can be downloaded to a supplied usb stick or transferred to a CD on request.

Potential Changes At The Cathedral

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is currently facing a space constraint in what was supposed to be the 'temporary' crypt located under the altar in the St John the Baptist Oratory in Maitland (the 'old cathedral'). It is here that the deceased Bishops are interred.

Various solutions to increase crypt space have been considered by diocesan leadership and it is now time to consult with parishioners and other stakeholders in the broader community in order that an informed decision can be made.

Anyone interested in this project is invited to attend one of two community consultation sessions to be held on Tuesday 11 March at 10am and repeated at 6pm in the Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West.

For more information, and to download the consultation prospectus, visit the diocesan website (www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/news/potential-cathedral-changes-being-considered/).

Renewing the Dungog Rosters

It's time for a renewal of our liturgical rosters in Dungog!

If you would like to contribute to our liturgical life in Dungog by being a Sacristan, Greeter, Reader, bringing forward the gifts, or (if it eventuates) assisting with the Chalice, please let Fr Andrew know of your desire by the end of February. If training (initial or refresher) is required, that can be arranged before the new rosters come into effect.

On the other hand, if you are currently on our roster and would like to take a break from your ministry for the next edition (which will be about six months), please let Fr Andrew know so that your wish can be honoured.

A quick email or little note would be most helpful because Fr Andrew can sometimes forget things when people tell him—especially before or after Mass. Thank you :)

Reintroduction of the Chalice

My thanks to those who indicated their desire for the reintroduction of Communion from the Chalice in our communities. There is sufficient numbers who wish to do so, and we will aim to reintroduce the Chalice from the **first Sunday of April**.

This will give us the opportunity to ensure that any ministers have the opportunity to receive some formation beforehand.

I would ask those parishioners who are prepared to assist in this liturgical ministry to let me know so that formation can be arranged and rosters updated where necessary.

Fr Andrew

Rite of Election—RCIA

The Rite of Election, an important step in the journey of Christian Initiation for catechumens who will be baptised during the Easter Vigil in their parishes, will be celebrated in Sacred Heart Cathedral on **Sunday, 9 March** (the First Sunday of Lent), commencing at 2.30pm. The liturgy will be followed by an afternoon tea.

All are welcome to join together for this joyful and wonderful occasion to witness and prayerfully support our catechumens, those people who are unbaptised and who are seeking to become a part of the Catholic Church.

Please RSVP for catering purposes by email to mission@mn.catholic.org.au, and all enquiries and be directed to Fiona Duque by phoning 0408 895 951.

Diocesan Launch of the Jubilee Year

On Sunday 2 March, Bishop Michael will officially launch the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's celebration of the Jubilee Year.

This will be marked by a Diocesan pilgrimage from Nobby's Beach (8am) to Sacred Heart Cathedral, culminating in Mass (10am) and a Festival (11am) in the Cathedral precinct grounds. The Festival will feature an official launch of *Project Compassion 2025* and the distribution of some resources.

All corners of the Diocese are encouraged to have representation and involvement as we mark Pope Francis' theme for the Jubilee—*Pilgrims of Hope*. Please email mission@mn.catholic.org.au for more information.

Confirmation in 2025

We have received notification that our parish celebration of Confirmation will take place on Friday, 14 November at St Mary's, Dungog. Bishop Michael will be attending to celebrate with us.

Further information about the 2025 journey for completing Christian Initiation can be found by going to <https://dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au/celebrations/christian-initiation/completing-christian-initiation-for-children/>.

Please pass this information to anyone you know who might find it helpful.

Embracing the Jubilee Year 2025

The Jubilee Year of 2025 calls for us to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. It is a special and profound year of grace, mercy and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage, and sacramental repentance.

There will be a number of special events across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, and these will be advertised in good time in the bulletin.

In addition, there are a number of churches across the diocese that have been officially designated as 'pilgrimage sites':

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- St Mary, Star of the Sea, Newcastle
- St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- St Joseph's Church, East Maitland
- St Joseph's Church, Murrurundi
- Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Scone
- Sts Patrick and Brigid Church, Cooranbong

These locations will be prepared to welcome groups and individuals on pilgrimage over the coming weeks and months—so perhaps if you'd like to make a pilgrimage, don't do it tomorrow but give it a bit of time.

Finding A New Patronal Name

ONLY ONE WEEK to go for nominations in the search for a new patron for our coming new parish.

My thanks to those parishioners who have already made a suggestion—so far we have received a total of **ten** suggestions that we are able to put before the community of our parishes is part of the process of discerning a new name, but it is still possible to add more to the list of possibilities.

If you would like to suggest the name of a saint to potentially become the patron of the 'Catholic Parish of Dungog Gresford', please do so in writing. It would be helpful to provide a little bit of information about your proposed saint and tell us why you think your saint is a good choice.

A list of the current patronal names used across the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, which you may like to avoid, can be found on our website under the 'Resources' tab of the main menu.

A reminder that the patronal names already in use within the two parishes are not available.

Submissions will close at **5pm on Friday, 28 February**, and the list with some background information will be made available on Sunday 9 March.

A vote will be taken on **Sunday 23 March** with the results announced on Sunday 30 March, after which the Bishop can be advised so the new patron can be included in the decree establishing our new parish.

Baptisms This Week

We look forward to welcoming **Everleigh, Grayson, and Avery Skillen**, together with their family and friends, as we celebrate their Baptism at 11am next Sunday at St Patrick's, Clarence Town.

Baptisms Next Week

We look forward to welcoming **Bonnie, Leo, and Daisy Bacon**, together with their family and friends, as we celebrate their Baptism at 10am next Saturday at St Helen's, East Gresford.

Electronic Banking Details

BSB: 066 739
A/c Name: Catholic Development Fund
Reference: Your Surname and/or Envelope No., or other reference.

Account Nos:
First collection: 100 029 440
Second collection:
Dungog: 100 005 170
Gresford 100 005 173

Today's Liturgy:

Scripture Readings:

1st 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

2nd 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel Luke 6:27-38

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection,
you have set us free.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February:

Together with Pope Francis, this month we pray:
"Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life."

Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass next Sunday (2 March) under the pergola beside the church. Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Stephen Samuel.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In February:

Michael Banister, Barney Hartnett, Edie Raymond, Jeffery Bunt, Eileen Maurer, Alban Maurer, Florence Farah, Lorraine Harris, Allan Turner, Patricia Byron, Katherine Garrison, Neville Baldwin, Georgeina Richardson, John Holstein, Edward Holstein, Frank Turner, Harrison Meyn Jack Reibel, Ethel Hannan, May Gehrig, Matilda Smith, Hyatt Rose, Kathleen Dickerson, Bernie Holstein, Terry Johnson, Marie Williams.

Those Who Are Sick: Maryann Smith, Daphne Bond, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, Bev Herbert, Warren Wade, Irene Robinson, Luke Barry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Anne Newman, Graham McCarthy, Keith Edwards, Neville Barry, Susan Barlow, Allwyn Gippel, Christine Elliott, Jean Robertson, Jessica Byron, George Bainou, Gwen Trappel, Tom Redgrove, John Newton.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead...)

7th Week in Ordinary Time, Year I

Monday 24 February

Tuesday 25 February

NO MASS Fr Andrew to Pokolbin for meetings

Wednesday 26 February

8.30am Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 27 February

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 28 February

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (Years 5 & 6 attending)

Saturday 1 March

10am Baptisms @ East Gresford

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 2 March

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog



Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: by phoning 4979 1390 or by emailing childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au. Visit the Office of Safeguarding website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au.

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford acknowledge the people of the Worimi and Wonnarua, on whose traditional lands we gather, live and work. We acknowledge their continuing deep and abiding attachment to the land.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage and beliefs, pay our respects to their Elders—past, present, and emerging—and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.